



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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***Healthy North Dakota* Receives ASTHO Vision Award**

BISMARCK, N.D. – *Healthy North Dakota's* Worksite Wellness Initiative received a 2009 second-place Vision Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) at its recent annual meeting in Virginia.

The award recognizes creative and innovative approaches to addressing public health challenges. Melissa Olson, *Healthy North Dakota* director, and Arvy Smith, deputy state health officer for the North Dakota Department of Health, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Healthy North Dakota is a statewide initiative that focuses on improving the health of every North Dakotan by supporting their efforts to make healthy choices – in schools, workplaces, senior centers, homes and anywhere people live, learn work and play.

Healthy North Dakota's Worksite Wellness Initiative works to increase the number of North Dakota worksites that offer comprehensive worksite wellness programs, to increase the number of employees who participate in worksite wellness, and to demonstrate the impact of worksite wellness programs on the health of employees and employers. *Healthy North Dakota's* Worksite Wellness Initiative uses trained consultants to assist worksites with facilitating the development of worksite wellness plans specific to each worksite. In addition, *Healthy North Dakota* developed a worksite wellness training curriculum.

For more information, contact Pete Seljevold, *Healthy North Dakota* Worksite Wellness director, at 701.277.2414. For information about *Healthy North Dakota*, contact Melissa Olson, *Healthy North Dakota* director, at 701.328.2372.

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